AMERICANS IN THE PHILIPPINES[1]

Only seven thousand Americans, outside of the Army and Navy, reside in the Philippines, and of these one-half live in Manila. The reasons for such a small American community are, first, that the wavering independence policy of the United States for the Philippines was not conducive to security and to persuading Americans to make the Islands their permanent home, and second, that a tropical land was not suitable for pioneer land grubbing. The American preferred to rent a house when he might have built a home, to invest his capital cautiously when he might have plunged heavily; to exist in the Philippines when he might have lived in the Philippines.

Manila Americans have been the targets of criticism, partly justified but mostly malicious slander emanating from prejudiced, week-end sojourners. In my humble opinion, the major mistake committed by American business men consisted in their engaging in political propaganda against independence which merely had the effect of hastening independence. Also, it would appear to an unprejudiced observer that resident Americans have been unduly impatient with their Governors-General, even with representative men like Governor-General Leonard Wood, for their determination to cooperate with the Filipino leaders, when under the Organic Law that was the only way open to obtain results. The feeling was that the Governor-General should take out the big stick and mightily

belabor Filipino heads with it. Finally, in the past racial misunderstandings were caused by articles appearing in certain sections of the local American press. Happily the sole remaining American daily does not adopt that attitude.

Most Americans have a genuine liking for the Filipinos and have known how to express that liking without either becoming mushy flatterers or hurting Filipino sensibilities. Never-

[7] **Section read by Mr. Howard M. Cavender, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce.**